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Egg-like Bodies in the Liver of the Rabbit.

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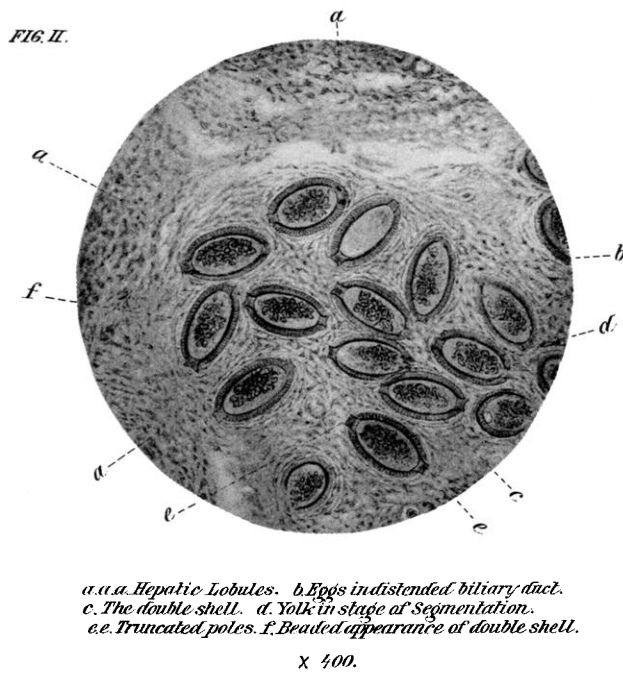
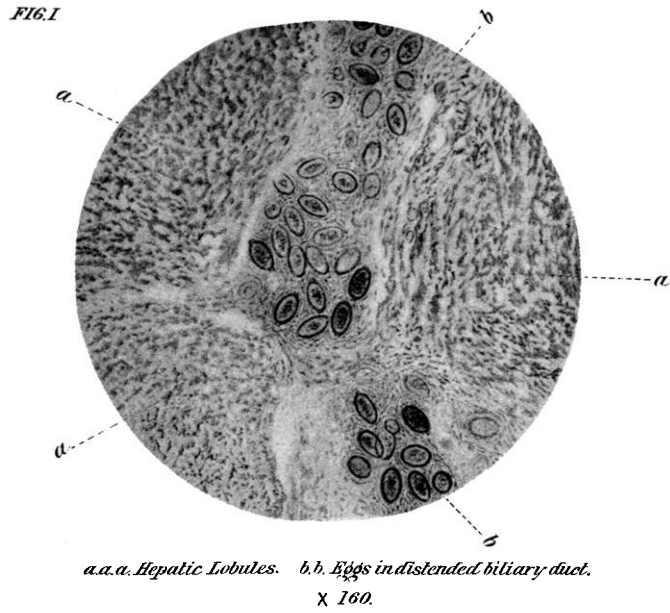
Several months ago, while examining the liver of a rabbit, dead of splenic fever, for the bacillus of anthrax, I found collections of egg-like bodies, filling and distending a biliary duct (fig. 1).

These bodies are oval in shape, the poles being truncated (e, e, fig. ii). They have a uniform, double-outlined shell (c, fig. ii), presenting that beaded appearance we find in the shell of the ova of other helminths, (f, fig. ii). In size, they are from 1-450 to 1-400 of an inch long, and about 1-900 of an inch broad. The cavities are filled, or partly filled, with granular matter (d, fig. ii), when but partly filled, the remaining space appears empty at first.

Before I had measured these bodies, I was disposed to believe them psorosperms; especially so, after reading Prof. Heller's description of these enigmatical forms, found in his contribution to Ziemssen's *Cyclopædia of the Practice of Medicine*, in which he says: Psorosperms are egg-shaped bodies, with a uniform double-outlined shell and granular contents, which either fills the entire cavity, or is merely rolled up in a roundish little heap, while the rest of the space appears clear. They measure from 0.03 to 0.04 m m. long, and from 0.012 to 0.02 m m. broad. Such psorosperms at times cause the dying off of young rabbits as if by a plague.

The *Micrographic Dictionary* describes the psorosperms as representing the pseudo-naviculæ of the Gregarinæ of fishes, and states that they are microscopic, oval, discoidal corpuscles, with or without a tail, exhibiting no movements, and consisting of a tolerably firm outer coat, containing one or two oblong contiguous vesicles at the

EGGS OF TRICHOCEPHALUS AFFINIS
IN LIVER OF RABBIT, BY LEWIS M. EASTMAN, A.M., M.D.



end of the body opposite the tail, and that they measure from 1-1500 to 1-1000 of an inch in length. Finding these bodies unlike those noticed in the Micrographic Dictionary, and so much larger than the psorosperms described by Heller, I have considered them the young eggs of the *Trichocephalus affinis*. Prof. Cobbold states that, in the perfectly developed egg of the *Trichocephalus affinis*, the external chitinous chorion presents the same character as that of the *Trichocephalus dispar*; at either pole of the egg, where the shell terminates abruptly, an inner, transparent membrane projects in the form of a papilla. That these eggs, when fully developed, have a longitudinal diameter of from 1-340 to 1-310 of an inch. The difference in size between those measured by Prof. Cobbold, and those I am describing is explained by the fact that the former were fully developed, while the latter were young, that is, in the stage of yolk segmentation.

None of these eggs present any traces of an embryo, and this also coincides with Prof. Cobbold's experience. Davain found that the embryonic formation only took place within the egg after the ova had been immersed in water for a period of six months, and hence surmises that the escaped embryos ultimately gain access to the body in a passive manner, when swallowed with water.

I presume the position of these eggs can only be explained by supposing that the parasitic worm, found its way to the liver from the intestine, through the *deuctus communis choledocus* and hepatic duct. I do not present this subject as one entirely new, but as one sufficiently rare to merit your attention.